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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/776,531

02/12/2004

Shrjie Tzeng

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12/10/2008

SQUIRE, SANDERS & DEMPSEY L.L.P.

8000 TOWERS CRESCENT DRIVE

14TH FLOOR

VIENNA, VA 22182-6212

EXAMINER

KRISHNAN, VIVEK V

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2445

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

12/10/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/776,531	Applicant(s) TZENG, SHRJIE	
	Examiner VIVEK KRISHNAN	Art Unit 2445	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 September 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This action is responsive to the Amendment/Arguments filed on September 25, 2008. Claims 1-15 are pending.

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to Claim Objections due to minor informalities have been fully considered and are persuasive. The objection to Claims 1, 6, and 11 has been withdrawn.

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102 and 35 U.S.C. 103 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

a. "Accordingly, Kalkunte fails to disclose or suggest all the limitations of claim 1. Additionally, Kalkunte fails to disclose or suggest all the limitations of independent claims 6 and 11..."

As rejected below, Kalkunte discloses examining the received frame to determine whether the frame belongs to a specific trunk group, examining the destination address of the frame to determine both the destination on the second side that the frame belongs to and the destination device associated with the trunk group on the second side that the frame belongs to, forwarding the frame to a destination port that is local to the network device if the frame is destined for a member of the specific trunk group and the destination device identifier corresponds to a network device on the second side, of devices accessible via trunked ports, and if the frame does not correspond to a network device of the second side, i.e. accessible via

Art Unit: 2445

trunked ports, an alternative destination port for the frame is determined and forwarded based on the egress port bit map.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, 3-6, 8-11, and 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0027908 A1 to Kalkunte et al. (hereinafter “Kalkunte”).

5. As to Claims 1, 6, and 11, Kalkunte discloses a method and network device (referenced hereinafter as the method) of handling frames in a network device, said method comprising:

receiving a frame at a network device of an assembly of network devices, with the assembly of devices divided into a first side and a second side and the network device being on the first side (Kalkunte; paragraph 11, and Figure 1, discloses receiving a frame at a network switch fabric, with a system of devices divided into a first side including the switch fabric and ingress network switches and a second side including the egress network switches and the destination devices that are accessible via trunked ports);

Art Unit: 2445

examining the received frame to determine whether the frame is destined for a member of a specific trunk group (Kalkunte; paragraph 11, and Figure 1, discloses examining the received frame to determine whether the frame is belongs to a specific trunk group);

determining whether a destination device identifier for the frame corresponds to one of the network devices on the second side (Kalkunte; paragraph 11, and Figure 1, discloses examining the destination address of the frame to determine both the destination on the second side that the frame belongs to and the destination device associated with the trunk group on the second side that the frame belongs to); and

forwarding the frame to a trunk group destination port that is local to the network device if the frame is destined for a member of the specific trunk group and the destination device identifier corresponds to a network device of the second side (Kalkunte; paragraph 11, and Figure 1, discloses forwarding the frame to a destination port that is local to the network device if the frame is destined for a member of the specific trunk group and the destination device identifier corresponds to a network device on the second side, of devices accessible via trunked ports);

if the frame does not correspond to the network device of the second side, determining an alternative destination port for the frame and forwarding the frame to the alternative destination port (Kalkunte; paragraph 11, if the frame does not correspond to a network device of the second side, i.e. accessible via trunked ports, an alternative destination port for the frame is determined and forwarded based on the egress port bit map).

Art Unit: 2445

6. As to Claims 3, 8, and 13, Kalkunte discloses each and every limitation of claims 1, 6, and 11. Kalkunte further discloses wherein the examining of the received frame comprises performing a lookup in a trunk group table (Kalkunte; paragraph 12-13, discloses examining the frame by performing a lookup in a trunk group table).

7. As to claims 4, 9, and 14, Kalkunte discloses each and every limitation of claims 1, 6, and 11. Kalkunte further discloses wherein the determining comprises examining the destination device identifier contained in a header of the frame (Kalkunte; paragraph 12-13, discloses examining the destination address in the header of the frame).

8. As to claims 5, 10, and 15, Kalkunte discloses each and every limitation of claims 1, 6, and 11. Kalkunte further discloses wherein the forwarding of the frame comprises forwarding the frame over an interconnected Gigabit port of the network device when the destination port is the member of the specific trunk group and the destination device identifier indicates one of the network devices on the second side (Kalkunte; Figure 1, discloses forwarding the frame over an interconnected Gigabit port of the network switch fabric).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having

Art Unit: 2445

ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claims 2, 7, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kalkunte, as applied to claims 1, 6, and 11, and in further view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0105904 to Varanasi et al. (hereinafter “Varanasi”).

11. As to Claims 2, 7, and 12, Kalkunte discloses each and every limitation of claims 1, 6, and 11. Kalkunte does not explicitly disclose, but Varanasi discloses wherein the examining of the received frame comprises examining the received frame to determine whether the frame is destined for the member of the specific trunking group of ports providing connections over a high speed data port interface (Varanasi; page 6 paragraphs 55-58, discloses examining the received frame to determine, based on the weighting considerations, whether the frame is destined for ports providing connections over higher bandwidth port interfaces).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify examining the received frame to determine whether it is destined for a member of a specific trunk group, as disclosed by Kalkunte, to include further discrimination on the speed of the ports associated with trunk group, as disclosed by Varanasi, in order to minimize congestion of any particular port (Varanasi; page 6 paragraphs 55-58).

Art Unit: 2445

Conclusion

12. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to VIVEK KRISHNAN whose telephone number is (571) 270-5009. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Cardone can be reached on (571) 272-3933. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2445

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Patrice Winder/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2445

VK